

### REMARKS

Claims 8 and 9 have been withdrawn as being directed towards a nonelected invention. Claim 10 has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 10 are at issue.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2, 6 and 7 would be allowed if amended to independent form to include all the limitations of any base claim. Claims 2, 6 and 7 have been so amended and accordingly are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claim 1 as anticipated by Friedrich, claims 1 and 4 as anticipated by Lesniak or Yoshida, and claims 1, 3 and 5 as anticipated by Kato et al. It appears the rejection has been based upon an interpretation of the word "adjacent" in the phrase "the long edges of the tube are adjacent the long edges of the tubes on either side of the tube" which allows the phrase to read on the references cited by the Examiner. Claim 1 has been amended to narrow the scope of this phrase by changing the phrase to read "the long edges of the tube are adjacent the long edges of the tube on either side of the tube with little or no gap between the long edges". None of the references relied upon in the above rejections show or suggest this structure. Indeed, Friedrich, Lesniak, Yoshida and Kato et al all show constructions in their figures wherein the long edges of the tubes are over 1 ½ times the minor dimension of the tube away from any other long edge of any adjacent

tube. Accordingly, in view of the amendment to claim 1, Applicant believes that the rejections should be withdrawn and claims 1 and 3-5 allowed.

Claim 10 has been amended from claim 1 and further characterizes the gap between the long edges of adjacent tubes.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1 and 3-5, the objections to claims 2, 6 and 7, and consideration of claim 10, together with an allowance of the case.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ,  
CLARK & MORTIMER

By



Jeffery N. Fairchild  
Reg. No. 37,825

January 28, 2004

500 West Madison Street  
Suite 3800  
Chicago, IL 60661-2511  
(312) 876-1800